



Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-11b)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1996 **Cost:** \$5 million
Project Area: 5,796 acres **Status:** Construction
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 247 acres
Project Type: Shoreline Protection

Location

This project is located in Cameron Parish on the northern and northwestern shorelines of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at the intersection of Sweet and Willow Lakes, approximately 3 miles southwest of Sweet Lake, Louisiana. The total project area is 5,796 acres of fresh marsh and open water.

Problems

The northern shoreline of the GIWW has eroded into both Sweet and Willow Lakes. This has resulted in increased turbidity in their waters that reduces the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation due to decreased water clarity. The erosion increases the distance waves can travel (fetch), which contributes to marsh loss caused by wind and wave erosion along the shorelines.

Restoration Strategy

Successful implementation of this project will conserve and restore vegetated wetlands by reestablishing a barrier between Sweet and Willow Lakes and the GIWW.

The features of the project include: installation of a 14,200-foot rock riprap embankment and 28,300 linear feet of vegetative plantings on the southern shoreline of Sweet Lake; installation of a 4,000-foot rock riprap embankment on the southern shoreline of Willow Lake; and construction of terraces in the eroded marsh between the lakes that will be planted with a double row of California bullrush (*Scirpus californicus*).

Progress to Date

The rock bank project feature was completed in January 2000. The installation of terraces and vegetation will be completed by September 2002.



In order to prevent the GIWW from encroaching into the lakes, the thin, eroding shorelines were protected with rock riprap.



In some areas, the shoreline was non-existent, succumbing to the forces of wave erosion. A new barrier consisting of rock was constructed, ensuring a more natural water flow in the project area.

For more project information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Alexandria, LA
 (318) 473-7816



Local Sponsor:
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 Baton Rouge, LA
 (225) 342-7308



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- Rock Dike
- Vegetative Planting
- Terraces with Vegetative Planting
- Project Boundary

